

wherein said hydrate fractionation column is configured so that fluid is removed from said hydrate fractionation column from a position below said point of hydrate formation, said method comprising controlling flow rates of fluid through said hydrate fractionation column such that substantially all of said residual fluid flows downward from said point of hydrate formation and out of said hydrate fractionation column at said position below said point of hydrate formation and such that said gas hydrate separates from said residual fluid at or near said point of hydrate formation, whereby heat of hydrate formation is substantially carried away from said gas hydrate and out of said hydrate fractionation column by means of said residual fluid flowing out of said hydrate fractionation column via said portion below said point of hydrate formation.

A1

cont'd

See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above claim.